

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /059 W

----- 073695

R 271229Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9788

INFO AT SEA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13413

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR, VS

SUBJECT: MICHEL HURIET, FRENCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO THE  
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SVN

1. MICHEL HURIET (COUNSELLOR SECOND CLASS) HAS NOW BEEN DESIGNATED FRENCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SVN. HURIET WAS BORN ON MAY 6, 1927 IN THE LURE PROVINCE ABOUT FIFTEEN MILES FROM THE SWISS BORDER. AFTER COMPLETING A DEGREE IN JAPANESE/CHINESE STUDIES AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES, HURIET SPENT ONE YEAR AS A JUNIOR OFFICER IN TOKYO (1952-53) AND TWO IN LISBON (1954-55). IN 1956 HE WAS ATTACHED TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN TOKYO, AND FROM 1959 TO 1962 HE WAS SECOND SECRETARY IN LONDON. IN 1962 HE WAS NAMED FIRST SECRETARY IN TOKYO, LEAVING IN 1965 TO BECOME FIRST SECRETARY IN ROME AND PERMANENT FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION. HE WAS CONSUL GENERAL IN KOBE, JAPAN (1968-70) AND IN VENICE, COVERING ALSO TRIESTE (1970-75). HURIET WAS NAMED HEAD OF FRENCH LIAISON MISSION TO PRG AND IN LATE APRIL WENT TO HANOI, WHERE HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PRG REP RESIDENT IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE IS STILL IN HANOI, BUT THE GOF HOPES THAT HE WILL  
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SOON BE ABLE TO GO TO SAIGON AND TAKE OVER FROM

AMBASSADOR MERILLON, WHOM THE GOF WILL WITHDRAW.  
HURIET MIGHT LEAVE SAIGON AFTER A NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR  
ARRIVES, OR HE MIGHT REMAIN ON AS DCM.

2. HURIET VOLUNTEERED FOR THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND  
CHALLENGING POSITION OF HEAD OF THE LIAISON MISSION.  
QUAI CHARGE FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS BOLLE COMMENTED THAT  
HURIET IS AN ACTIVIST AND LOVES ASIA, AND THEREFORE  
EXPECTED TO ENJOY THE ASSIGNMENT DESPITE THE ANTICIPATED  
FRUSTRATIONS. SINCE HURIET SERVED FOUR TOURS IN JAPAN,  
EMBASSY TOKYO MAY WISH TO COMMENT PARTICULARLY ON  
HOW EFFECTIVE HE MAY BE IF THE GOF GETS PRG CONCURRENCE  
TO PROTECT US INTERESTS IN SVN.

3. IN ADDITION TO HIS RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC  
CAREER, HURIET HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS AS A WRITER.  
HE WRITES ARTICLES PERIODICALLY FOR THE FRENCH PRESS  
(A RECENT ARTICLE WAS ABOUT VENICE), AND IN 1972 HE WON  
THE CATHOLIC LITERATURE PRIZE, AMONG THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS  
IN FRANCE, FOR HIS NOVEL "THE KING'S FIANCEE".

4. HURIET IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN. HIS WIFE  
HAS NOT ACCOMPANIED HIM.  
RUSH

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